

Passed by the House on May 12, 2015: Yeas 135, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Filed without signature June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**USE OF MUNICIPAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE IN
CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES**

CHAPTER 663

H.B. No. 3595

AN ACT

relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue in certain municipalities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 351.101, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) In addition to the uses authorized by Subsection (a), a municipality described by Subsection (a)(7)(B)(viii), as added by Chapter 546 (S.B. 585), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, may use revenue derived from the tax authorized by this chapter to promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry by constructing, maintaining, or expanding a sporting-related facility owned by the municipality if:

(1) the majority of the events at the facility involve participants staying at hotels in the municipality; and

(2) for a fiscal year, the municipality does not reduce the amount of that revenue that it uses for a purpose described by Subsection (a)(3) to an amount that is less than the lesser of:

(A) the amount of that revenue used by the municipality for that purpose during the municipality's 2015 fiscal year; or

(B) the total amount of that revenue received in the fiscal year.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 12, 2015: Yeas 136, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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**PROHIBITING CAMPING AND BUILDING FIRES IN CERTAIN
AREAS; CREATING A CRIMINAL OFFENSE**

CHAPTER 664

H.B. No. 3618

AN ACT

relating to prohibiting camping and building fires in certain areas; creating a criminal offense.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 90, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 90.0085 to read as follows:

Sec. 90.0085. CAMPING AND BUILDING FIRES PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) This section applies to a section of the Blanco River that is not located in a county adjacent to a county with a municipality with a population greater than 1.5 million.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 90.008(a), a person may not camp or build a fire in a dry riverbed.

SECTION 2. Section 90.011(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 90.002, [or] 90.008, or 90.0085.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2015: Yeas 140, Nays 5, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 25, 2015: Yeas 24, Nays 7.

Filed without signature June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

USE AND ALLOCATION OF MUNICIPAL HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUES FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES

CHAPTER 665

H.B. No. 3629

AN ACT

relating to use and allocation of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenues for certain municipalities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 351.101, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) In addition to the purposes provided by Subsection (a), a municipality that has a population of at least 75,000 but not more than 95,000 and that is located in a county that has a population of more than 160,000 but less than 200,000 may use revenue from the municipal hotel tax to promote tourism and the convention and hotel industry by constructing, operating, or expanding a sporting related facility or sports field owned by the municipality, if the majority of the events at the facility or field are directly related to a sporting event in which the majority of participants are tourists who substantially increase economic activity at hotels in the municipality.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 351, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 351.1078 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.1078. ALLOCATION OF REVENUE: CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES. (a) A municipality that spends municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue as authorized by Section 351.101(i):

(1) may not use municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue for the acquisition of land for the sporting related facility or sports field described by that subsection;

(2) shall annually determine and prepare and publish on the municipality's Internet website a report on the events held at the facility or field, the number of hotel room nights attributable to events held at the facility or field, and the amount of hotel revenue and municipal tax revenue attributable to the sports events and tournaments held